COPY

ANNEX 5

116 (i)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OUTGOING TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET

August 7, 1947
9 pm

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AMEMBASSY,

LONDON. (No. 3396)

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

Pls inform Bevin substance Athens 1275 Aug 2 (Deptel 3353 Aug 5) and Rome's 2191 Aug 2 (Deptel 3350 Aug 5). You shd say we share grave apprehension Amer officials Greece and Italy re withdrawal Brit troops those countries, and earnestly hope UK Govt will give further consideration consequences this proposed action. As regards Greece, we feel especially strongly that troops shd not (rpt not) be withdrawn until after final consideration of Greek case by SC and GA and, following that, after realistic appraisal and full and frank exchange of views between US and UK Govts. At that time, proposal could be re-examined in light of circumstances then existing and decision taken in full awareness of future course US and UK action re Greek situation.

In case of Italy, we believe study shd be made by military of status our respective forces there before any decision reached. Our feeling is that fate of Italy and Trieste will depend in great measure upon attitude and actions US, UK and France in next few months, and we therefore feel our actions in this area must be weighed with this consideration in mind and carefully coordinated between us.

You shd tell Bevin we are much relieved to note his assurance that no change in Brit foreign policy is contemplated now and that we will be fully consulted before any such change in future. This assurance seems to us closely related to question of Brit troops in Greece and Italy.

MARSHALL

SE:WCDowling:smw
NE:WCBaxter
8/7/47

NEA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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